

Reston CONNECTION

PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION OPINION, PAGE 2 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 5 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 6

Olivia Fournier, 17 of Reston, and Josh Leong, 18 of McLean, hold the photo journal they created, "Kings x Queens" depicting the moving story of the abandoned children crisis in Ethiopia. "Kings x Queens (is) one of the only active campaigns for awareness in America," said Leong.

Bringing Hope To Abandoned Children

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OPINION

Wish List

Things this session of the General Assembly, beginning Jan. 9., could/should accomplish.

Before this session, every year for the better part of a decade, the most profound wish for the Virginia General Assembly session was the expansion of Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act, which could provide healthcare to as many as 400,000 poor Virginians who otherwise were living without coverage. Partisan obstruction prevented those people from gaining coverage for many years.

But coverage began this month for 200,000 new enrollees after Medicaid expansion came to Virginia in the last session. It arrived with the November 2017 election and Democrats taking 15 additional seats in Virginia's House of Delegates. The prospect for more awaits in this November's election with all seats in the General Assembly, both the House of Delegates and the Senate, on the ballot.

So we'll begin this year's wish list with gratitude that the entire Commonwealth, including the economy, will be healthier for provid-

ing healthcare to the previously uninsured. And a wish that we not complicate the coverage with work reporting requirements. Please.

So in the new era of new hope for action in the General Assembly, here are some (not so modest) wishes for this session, acknowledging that some may wait another year for serious consideration.

COMMENTARY

❖ Establish a nonpartisan redistricting commission. This is urgent, as the General Assembly would have to act in this session to get a constitutional amendment on the ballot in time for a commission to be ready for redistricting after the 2020 census.

❖ Greater transparency everywhere. Move to allow fewer, not more, FOIA exemptions. Require that a reason be given for any FOIA denial.

❖ End suspension of driver's licenses for non-payment of court costs and fines.

❖ Pass the Equal Rights Amendment.

❖ Fund Community Services Board budgets.

Expand Medicaid waivers; clear the waiting list.

❖ Fund education fairly, Northern Virginia needs more help.

❖ Restrict predatory lending.

❖ Think about reform and civil rights when considering votes on law enforcement.

❖ Involve local officials in fixing proffer regulation.

❖ Protect LGBT rights.

❖ Implement no-excuse absentee voting.

❖ Limit large campaign contributions.

❖ Prohibit personal use of campaign funds.

❖ Require reporting on solitary confinement.

❖ Push jails and prisons to adopt best practices for prisoners with mental health issues.

❖ Provide a tax credit for family caregivers, with income limits if needed.

Comments? Additions? Email editors@connectionnewspapers.com

There is an infinite amount of information at virginiageneralassembly.gov Click on "members and session" for quick links.

— MARY KIMM

Time for Further Evolution in Virginia

BY KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM
STATE DELEGATE (D-36)



COMMENTARY

The Virginia General Assembly will

convene for its annual session at noon on Jan. 9. The opening session will no doubt note that a form of representative government first met at the church at Jamestown 400 years ago. I am honored to have served nearly ten percent of the span of existence of the Assembly.

The events of 400 years ago are being observed through a coordinating body, American Evolution, that in its publicity states that "1619 was a pivotal year in the establishment of the first permanent English colony in North America. It was the year of the first representative legislative assembly in the New World, the arrival of the first recorded Africans to English North America, the recruitment of English women in significant numbers, the first official English Thanksgiving in North America, and the development of the Virginia colony's entrepreneurial and innovative spirit." I encourage constituents to participate in the events of the year for I believe they form

an excellent starting point for an understanding of where Virginia is today and most importantly where Virginia is headed.

Some historians and public relations experts would proclaim what happened in Virginia in 1619 as the birth of democracy in America. Certainly, it was a small step, but that was 400 years ago. It is time to take another step in our evolution to a more democratic phase in our government. Namely, it is time for the people of Virginia to pick their legislative representatives rather than their representatives picking them. I am referring to the process of redistricting legislative boundaries after the federal census that is often referred to as "gerrymandering."

In 1982 I introduced what I believe to be the first bill in Virginia to create a nonpartisan and independent legislative redistricting commission. The Democrats who overwhelmingly controlled the General Assembly at the time dismissed the idea for they were firmly in control. When the Republicans

SEE PLUM, PAGE 6

2019—A Year of Key Choices

BY JOHN LOVAAS
RESTON IMPACT PRODUCER/HOST



INDEPENDENT PROGRESSIVE

Happy New Year Reston and Virginia!

Welcome 2019, a year filled with challenges and critical choices. The challenges begin right here in Reston. The top one for me, and likely for a majority of Restonians, is incumbent Supervisor Cathy Hudgins' plan to raise Reston's zoning density from 13 to 15 persons per acre for the area designated Planned Residential Community (PRC), which constitutes most of Reston. This rezoning, combined with Fairfax County's approved Master Plan for our Transit Station Areas, could take Reston from a current population of 62,000 up to as high as 160,000 over the next 30-40 years. Are we up to this challenge?

There is strong, vocal community opposition to her proposal as expressed by the Coalition for Planned Reston (CPR) and the Reston Association. Surprisingly, there is also looming opposition on the Fairfax County Planning Commission and even among Hudgins' fellow Supervisors who seem more concerned with community upset than she does. Thanks to Hudgins pressure the proposal is on a fast track to final action by the Board of Supervisors.

The County Planning Commis-

sion has set an unusual "work session" with staff at the Government Center on Jan. 10 to sort out the issues before convening on Jan. 23 to decide whether to recommend that the Board of Supervisors adopt, or not and at what level, the proposal at its March 5 meeting. I expect that Commissioner John Carter of Lake Anne may play a key role in these deliberations. The Commission meetings should be very lively. Citizen visibility as well as testimony on Jan. 23 are encouraged — and could be crucial.

This is a great stage setter for 2019 elections for Supervisor in Reston and elsewhere in the County, including the race for a new Chairman of the Board. Supervisor Hudgins has yet to declare if she will run for yet another term after 18 years in office. One Democrat, Parker Messick, has already announced to oppose her. At least six other Dems are lining up for a final gut check before announcing. I don't know if Ms. Hudgins will run, but suspect she does not wish to be a lame duck and will hold off announcing as long as possible (March?).

It is time for a change. If she does run, it will be an uphill battle,

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Reston CONNECTION

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Local Teens Commit to Humanitarian Aid Project

Seek to raise funds for Orphan Care Ethiopia.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Two local teens, Olivia Fournier, 17 of Reston, and Josh Leong, 18 of McLean, took action after they traveled to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia with members of McLean Bible Church during the summer of 2018 to help care for vulnerable and orphan children in local communities and centers, and perform evangelism ministry. Seeing themselves in a position to raise awareness and donations to benefit Orphan Care Ethiopia upon returning home, Fournier and Leong created a four-part documentary film named “Kings x Queens” and a fundraising photo journal of the same name depicting the moving story of the abandoned children crisis while celebrating cultural differences.

LEONG AND FOURNIER shared their goals, what they learned in their travel to Ethiopia and plans for the future. “Our goal for the video is to advocate for Hope for the Fatherless whose main issue is the abandoned children. ... We wanted to be able to get the story out and educate others and raise funds. ... Ethiopia has limited humanitarian aid intervention from organizations including UNICEF, making Kings x Queens one of the only active campaigns for awareness in America,” said Leong.

Describing the crisis and the need for funding, Leong said that in January 2018, the Ethiopian government prohibited the adoption of children by foreigners due “to scandal outside the country involving human rights issues,” referencing child trafficking and baby stealing. “There’s a rabbit hole,” Leong reported of the additional twists and turns concerning the crisis. “There is anti-foreign concern as the Ethiopian government wants their children to remain in their borders and their culture,” Leong said.

Fournier added that five percent of the current 90 million people in Ethiopia are orphans. “That’s 4.5 million kids. It’s a really big



Olivia Fournier, 17 of Reston, and Josh Leong, 18 of McLean, hold the photo journal they created after their travels to Ethiopia, Fournier said that five percent of the current 90 million people in Ethiopia are orphans. “That’s 4.5 million kids,” she said.

number,” she said. Fournier described a photo she took. “There’s one. A group of girls, five of them laughing.

That was a sweet moment.” Leong described how he got to see first hand the impact contributions made as he stood in a living room for the children furnished by the funds. “It all came full circle.” “The

ries, “Kings x Queens,” and book signing/sale at 4 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 13, 2019. The event is free and open to the public. Fournier and Leong will be on hand to meet people, introduce themselves, talk about their experiences and sign books to bring exposure to the orphan crisis and help support efforts.

“Scrawl is always happy to support community initiatives, and to allow artists and writers to use our store as a venue to share their perspectives and work,” said Rachel Wood, founder/owner Scrawl Books.

kids still living on the streets and orphans were hard to deal with,” Fournier said. “Leaving was even harder and made this project even more important.”

SCRAWL BOOKS, Reston Town Center at 11911 Freedom Dr., Reston is hosting the world premiere of the documentary film se-

Individuals can donate to their partner organizations, Hope for the Fatherless and Selamta Family Project, two 501c3 organizations based in Ethiopia or visit kingsxqueens.weebly.com. All funds are tax deductible and will be used to run training, community events and sponsor houses for orphans in local neighborhoods.

“The kids still living on the streets and orphans were hard to deal with. Leaving was even harder and made this project even more important.”

— Olivia Fournier, 17 of Reston

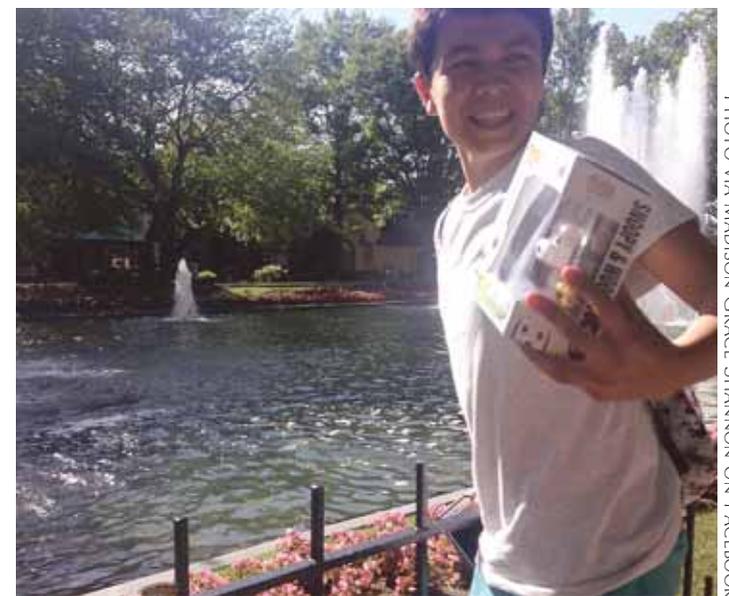


PHOTO VIA MADISON GRACE SHANNON ON FACEBOOK

“Smiling to everyone he met came so easy to him,” said Mary, a 10th-grade student and classmate of Daniel Cruz’s at South Lakes High School in Reston who summed up his personality best. Cruz (in this photo) is the Reston teen who was killed in a hit and run accident on the evening of Dec. 29, 2018.

‘Smiling to Everyone He Met’

Remembering Reston teen killed in hit and run; driver sought.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

As the Reston and South Lakes High School communities mourn the loss of 16-year-old Marvin “Daniel Cruz” Serrano, as he was returning home from work, they fondly remember him. A sophomore at South Lakes, He was killed in a hit and run accident on Saturday evening, Dec. 29, 2018.

“Daniel was a soft-spoken, hard-working young man who was kind, thoughtful and dedicated to his family,” said South Lakes High School Principal Kim Retzer. “On behalf of the

SLHS community, we extend our deepest condolences to his family and friends during this difficult time,” she said.

As the memorial site for Cruz continued to grow over the holiday break, students and staff entered South Lakes High School on Wednesday, Jan. 2, 2019, for counseling and clinical support offered by Fairfax County Public Schools to cope with the sudden loss. Many students appeared too distraught to comment according to Retzer.

Mary, a 10th-grade student at SLHS summed up Cruz’s personality, saying: “Smiling to SEE HIT AND RUN, PAGE 7



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

The memorial site for Daniel Cruz continues to grow as family and friends mourn the loss of his life and hope someone will come forward with information or accept responsibility.

Beyond The Resolution

Keeping a home in order all year long.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

For those who resolved to keep a neater, cleaner home in the new year, the issue of how to keep it that way through December can be challenging. After the excitement of the fresh start that January offers, the reality of one's day-to-day life emerges. How to keep that newly purged closet neat when rushing to get to a meeting on time? By February, that cleaned-out sports bin might look a bomb went off at Modell's. From shredding or recycling unwanted mail each day to loading the dishwasher after each meal, adopting a few daily cleaning tips can help maintain that tidy home all year long.

"In general, I recommend keeping up with household duties on a daily basis so none of them become a bigger project," said professional organizer Susan Unger of Clutter SOS.

One of the most basic tasks is making one's bed first thing in the morning. "I think that kick starts you into cleaning and organizing mode and sets the tone for the day," said Preston Taylor of From Chaos to Order. "I also recommend keeping a dust cloth nearby so that you can give your dresser and nightstand a quick dust off so dust accumulation would be one less thing you have to worry about."

Piles of clothing, whether clean or dirty can accumulate quickly and send a home in into disarray. Dedicating five to 10 minutes every evening to rehang clothes and separating items that need to

"If you start a load when you first arrive home from work, you will have time to dry and even fold it before you go to bed, so you're not faced with a mountain of dirty clothes at the end of week."

— Preston Taylor of From Chaos to Order



Wiping down bathroom showers, sinks and counters each day can help keep a home tidy all year long.

PHOTO BY STACY ZARIN GOLDBERG

be dry cleaned can help prevent a backlog. "Be sure to put all clothes away on a daily basis rather than leaving in a chair or floor," said Unger. "Clean clothes should be hung up or put in drawers and dirty clothes in the laundry basket."

Taylor recommends tackling laundry every evening if necessary. "If you start a load when you first arrive home from work, you will have time to dry and even fold it before you go to bed, so you're not faced with a mountain of dirty clothes at the end of week," said Taylor.

When it comes to the bathroom, brief, daily attention to detail can keep dirt from spiraling out of control. Rehanging towels, and then wiping it down one's shower each time you take a shower are suggestions from Carmen Garcia of CG Green Clean. "Keep a container of disinfecting wipes in your bathroom and wipe down your counters and sink before going to bed each evening," she said. "Also each night, add a squirt of toilet cleaner to your toilet bowl, wipe down the seat and then flush the toilet. It takes less than five minutes to do all of this but you'd be amazed at the difference it makes at the end of the week, especially in children's bathrooms."

After Holiday Visits, Some Questions

Recognizing signs, early detection empowers families to plan for the future.

Holiday visits with family members or friends not seen as frequently during the year may raise questions about their cognitive health. Although some change in cognitive ability can occur with age, serious memory problems are not a part of normal aging. The Alzheimer's Association encourages anyone who has a question or concern about the state of an aging family member or friend to call its free 24-hour Helpline, 800-272-3900. Recognizing the difference can help identify when it may be time for a loved one to see a doctor. The Alzheimer's Association has a check list of warning signs, along with examples of normal aging. Every individual may experience one or more of the warning signs in different degrees.

- ❖ Memory loss that disrupts daily life.
- ❖ Challenges in planning or solving problems. \

- ❖ Difficulty completing familiar tasks at home, at work or at leisure.
- ❖ Confusion with time or place.
- ❖ Trouble understanding visual images and spatial relationships.
- ❖ New problems with words in speaking or writing.
- ❖ Misplacing things and losing the ability to retrace steps.
- ❖ Decreased or poor judgment.
- ❖ Withdrawal from work or social activities.
- ❖ Changes in mood and personality.

Although the onset of Alzheimer's disease cannot yet be stopped or reversed, an early diagnosis is an important step in getting appropriate treatment, care and support services allows people with dementia and their families. For more information, visit the Alzheimer's Association web site at alz.org or call their toll-free 24/7 Helpline at 800-272-3900.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Submit entertainment announcements at www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. The deadline is noon on Friday.

THURSDAY/JAN. 10

Storytime For 3-5. 10:30 a.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. An early literacy program with stories and activities. Age 3-5 with adult. No registration required. Call 703-689-2700 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov.

FRIDAY/JAN. 11

Gymboree Music I. 10:30 a.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Age 6-18 months with adult. Register now. Call 703-689-2700 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov.

The Storytime Social Hour. 11 a.m. at Scrawl Books, 11911 Freedom Drive, Reston. Every Friday, moms, dads, caregivers and kids are invited to join a Storytime Social Hour. Scrawl will provide coffee and treats for the adults; stories and fun for the little people. Make new friends or meet up with neighbors. Visit www.scrawlbooks.com or call 703-966-2111.

Gymboree Music II. 11:15 a.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Age 18-24 months with adult. Register now. Call 703-689-2700 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov.

SATURDAY/JAN. 12

Sing! Books With Miss Emily. 10:30 a.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. No registration required. Call 703-689-2700 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov.

The Bookworms Club. 11 a.m. at Scrawl Books, 11911 Freedom Drive, Reston. Young readers are invited to join Scrawl's all-new and completely free Bookworms Club. Explore a new theme each week with picture books, special guests and most often, authors. Visit www.scrawlbooks.com or call 703-966-2111.

SUNDAY/JAN. 13

FTC Robotics Competition. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at South Lakes High School, Gym, 11400 South Lakes Drive, Reston. With FIRST Tech Challenge, middle and high school teams design, build, and program robots to meet a complex engineering challenge, then compete head-to-head against others in a high-tech exciting event. Free event, open to the public. Email slhssteam@gmail.com or visit southlakespts.org/event/first-tech-challenge-south-lakes-reston-qualifier/. This tournament is staffed by volunteers from SLHS and FIRST

Charming, Heartfelt 'Superior Donuts'

Reston Community Players open the New Year at CenterStage.

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

Adding to its rich history, the Reston Community Players opens the New Year with "Superior Donuts." It is a comedy-drama about the building of a cross-racial, cross generational friendships. If the title seems familiar, it is because before it was adapted into a recent television series, "Superior Donuts" was a play by award-winning playwright Tracy Letts.

"At its core, 'Superior Donuts' is a play about embracing the pain of the past and the restorative power of friendship. But not only does this play have heart, quite simply, it's funny ... really funny and smartly written," said Bryce Monroe one of the featured actors in the production.

"Superior Donuts" centers on Arthur Przybyszewski (played by veteran actor Michael Kharfen) a burnt-out, former hippie who owns a rundown donut shop in Chicago. He is lost to his past. Then Franco Wicks (portrayed by newcomer to Reston audiences, Bryce Monroe), a charismatic African-American man full of new ideas, begins to work at the donut shop. He too is a man with a past to deal with. Arthur finds new energy. He also finds a way to show his appreciation to Franco. Kharfen and Monroe are joined by Tel Monks, Mattie Cohan, Matthew McCarthy, Sally Cusenza, Ian Brown, Michael King and Tice Rust.

Seth Ghitelman directs "Superior Donuts." The play is about more than just "a rundown donut shop in Chicago and the characters that pass through the shop. On a deeper level, it speaks about the people in a community that is going through changes. It is a play about the American dream and the American



Michael Kharfen as Arthur Przybyszewski (center, with glasses) surrounded by cops in rehearsal for Reston Community Players production of 'Superior Donuts.'

experience. It is about how each generation defines them.

"The bond formed between Arthur and Franco is a joy to experience as it builds throughout the play," said Ghitelman.

For Kharfen, his character Arthur "is surprising and unpredictable. While his exterior may appear to be stubborn and set in his ways, he still has in his heart a bit of the rebel of his youth. He carries the weight of his past. He struggles to redeem and forgive himself."

Monroe describes his character Franco as a man with "charming wit matched by youthful optimism in the face of adversity. He's a dreamer and a storyteller with an old, artistic soul."

"Looking for a show where you can laugh, cry, and learn a little bit about yourself all at once, 'Superior Donuts' is one to see," added Monroe.

Reston Community Players present "Superior Donuts" various times and dates through Jan. 27 at Reston Community Center, CenterStage, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Hunters Woods, Reston.

Chesapeake, a non-profit. People interested in volunteering should visit www.firstchesapeake.org/volunteer.

MONDAY/JAN. 14

Baby Steps Story Time. 10:30 a.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Age 12-23 months with adult. No registration required. Call 703-689-2700 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov.

E-book Help on Mondays. 2 p.m. at

Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Get assistance downloading library e-books onto an electronic device? Come on by and library staff can help. No registration required. Call 703-689-2700 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov.

Book Match Kids Book Club. 6:30 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Grades 2-4 looking for a good book can join the book match event to try, test, and choose a next favorite book. No registration

required. Call 703-689-2700 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov.

TUESDAY/JAN. 15

Baby Play and Explore. 11 a.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. An hour of unstructured play and social time for babies. Cosponsored by FRRL. Age birth-18 months with adult. No registration required. Call 703-689-2700 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov.

Sam's Book Club. 7 p.m. at Reston

Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Join former FCPL library director Sam Clay for a lively book discussion. This month's title is "Sing, Unburied, Sing" by Jessamyn West. No registration required. Call 703-689-2700 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 16

Basic Knitting. 7 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Learn the only two stitches needed to knit anything. Age 16 years and above. No registration required. Call 703-689-2700 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov.

THURSDAY/JAN. 17

Toddler Story Time. 10:30 a.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Fun stories, songs and finger plays. Age 2 with adult. Register beginning Jan. 3. Call 703-689-2700 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov.

Buying and Using a New T.V. 7 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Discover the latest features of TVs, including "streaming" of movies and other programming. Adults, teens. No registration required. Call 703-689-2700 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov.

FRIDAY/JAN. 18

Baby and Me Yoga. 10:30 a.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. A nurturing yoga workshop is designed for the two of you. No experience needed. Please bring a towel or yoga mat. Age 6 weeks - 16 months with adult. Register beginning Jan. 4. Call 703-689-2700 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov.

The Storytime Social Hour. 11 a.m. at Scrawl Books, 11911 Freedom Drive, Reston. Every Friday, moms, dads, caregivers and kids are invited to join a Storytime Social Hour. Scrawl will provide coffee and treats for the adults; stories and fun for the little people. Make new friends or meet up with neighbors. Visit www.scrawlbooks.com or call 703-966-2111.

SAT.-MONDAY/JAN. 19-21

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration. Reston Community Center will have a full slate of community events Jan. 19-21 as it presents the 34th Annual Reston Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration. DeRay Mckesson, organizer, activist and author of the new book *On the Other Side of Freedom: The Case for Hope*, will deliver this year's keynote address. Visit www.restoncommunitycenter.com or call 703-476-4500.



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An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them.
-Werner Heisenberg

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Announcements

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NEWS

County Asked to Withdraw Reston Zoning Amendment

Coalition for a Planned Reston (CPR) calls for suspension of Fairfax County's schedule to amend zoning to authorize increased density in the Reston Planned Residential Community (PRC). Coalition for a Planned Reston rejects as "form over substance" the County's belated response to community questions after moving forward with formal approval by the Board of Supervisors.

In a letter to County Supervisor Cathy Hudgins, Coalition for a Planned Reston acknowledged receipt of a portion of the long-delayed information promised by County staff in community meetings in June and July, 2018. However, the coalition advised Supervisor Hudgins that "the County's belated information 'dump' provides little responsive information despite its volume, some of which is not relevant or is outdated or inaccurate." The letter says that the County's Dec. 11 submission appears to have been provided only "in a face-saving effort" in light of concerns expressed by the Board of Supervisors when

the zoning amendment was discussed in their Dec. 4, 2018 meeting.

The Coalition for a Planned Reston letter states, "In short, the timing, substance and motivation for the County's long-delayed responses to CPR and Reston Association appear to be form over substance."

Coalition for a Planned Reston asked Supervisor Hudgins to request that the Reston PRC zoning amendment be withdrawn from the Board of Supervisors' calendar, and "to re-engage in the process for meaningful dialogue with the community, to which you previously committed."

Currently the PRC zoning amendment is scheduled for a Fairfax County Zoning Commission workshop on Jan. 10, but no community input will be permitted. A Planning Commission Public Hearing is on the calendar for Jan. 23, 2019 at 7 p.m. A large public turnout is planned for that Public Hearing and, if necessary, a Board of Supervisors Public Hearing on or about March 5, 2019.

Public Safety Drones? Public Input Wanted

The Fairfax County Unmanned Aircraft Systems program will provide an enhanced level of operational capability, safety and situational awareness for first responders, other approved participating agencies, and decision-makers with high quality imagery, data, and customized geospatial solutions using unmanned aircraft while continuing to maintain the public trust.

Fairfax County is developing a comprehensive Public Safety Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) program and would like to hear from residents on what they think. We are hosting six public information meetings located throughout Fairfax County.

After the presentation, there will be an opportunity to ask questions from representatives of the Office

of Emergency Management, County Attorney's Office, Police and Fire and Rescue Department. The formal presentation will begin at 7 p.m.

To find out more about the UAS program go to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/uas. The draft public safety UAS program manual is located there along with a link to the email account.

Please send your feedback or questions to uas@fairfaxcounty.gov or through the link located on the UAS webpage. Written comments on the draft program must be received by the close of business Feb. 8, 2019 to be included in the official public record.

❖ Jan. 14, 2019 (6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.), Mason District Governmental Center (Community Room), 6507 Columbia Pike,

Annandale, VA 22003

❖ Jan. 16, 2019 (6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.), South County Governmental Center (Room 221C), 8350 Richmond Highway, Alexandria, VA 22309

❖ Jan. 23, 2019 (6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.), McLean District Governmental Center, 1437 Balls Hill Road, McLean, VA 22101

❖ Jan. 24, 2019 (6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.), Sully District Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd, Chantilly, VA 20151

❖ Jan. 28, 2019 (6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.), Reston Community Center – Hunter Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston, VA 20191

❖ Jan. 30, 2019 (6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.), Braddock Hall – Kings Park Library, 9002 Burke Lake Road, Burke, VA 22015

Plum

FROM PAGE 2

took the majority in the General Assembly years later, they also rejected my proposal because they were now in control. I am pleased with the growth of awareness on the part of the public that the current partisan-controlled system of dividing up the population into legislative districts serves the legislators' interests instead of their

constituents and the issues important to them.

The General Assembly must act in this session to get a constitutional amendment on the ballot in time for a commission to be organized to do redistricting after the 2020 census. Thanks to all associated with OneVirginia 2021 for the advocacy they are doing to bring about this evolution of democracy in the Commonwealth.

Lovaas

FROM PAGE 2

one she could lose in a Democratic primary.

Electing a Supervisor is Reston's big 2019 choice!

Virginia voters also will decide which party controls the Commonwealth's legislature in November 2019. All 100 House of Delegates and all 40 State Senate seats are up for election. Because of huge Democratic gains in the

2017 House of Delegates and the 2018 Congressional elections (Dem women won three formerly Republican seats), and the status of the Republican brand under President Trump, I have a feeling that Virginia voters will again make the right choices. That is, they will deliver the Legislative Assembly, both the House and the Senate, to the Democrats in 2019. It's fair to say that 2019 will be a watershed year in Reston and Virginia.

Plan to visit the General Assembly during this session that runs five days a week through Feb. 22. All committee meetings are open to the public. Legislator offices are just across Bank Street from the Capitol, and I am always pleased to see constituents. Let's make sure that when the history of the 2019 session is written that a major step in representative government will have taken place.

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BULLETIN

Submit civic/community announcements at ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

DONATION REQUEST

Support Reston Historic Trust & Museum.

The Reston Historic Trust & Museum has launched a GoFundMe campaign with the goal to raise \$15,000 to go towards the repair, cleaning, and reinstallation of icons on the façade of the former Lakeside Pharmacy, an original Lake Anne Plaza store, in a new permanent exhibit. The new exhibit will be unveiled during Reston's annual Founder's Day event, April 6th, 2019. Read more about their history and donate at www.gofundme.com/preserve-lakeside-pharmacy-icons to assist in their preservation. Thank you for your help!

INPUT SOUGHT

Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Program.

Fairfax County is developing a comprehensive Public Safety Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) program and would like to hear from residents. Each of six public information meetings will include a static display of unmanned aircraft followed by a presentation outlining the program. After the presentation, there will be an opportunity to ask questions. The formal presentation will begin at 7 p.m. To find out more about the UAS program go to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/uas. Send feedback or questions to uas@fairfaxcounty.gov or through the link located on the UAS webpage. Written comments on the draft program must be received by the close of business Feb. 8, 2019, to be included in the official public record.

- ❖ Thursday, Jan. 14, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Mason District Governmental Center (Community Room), 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale.
- ❖ Wednesday, Jan. 16, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at South County Governmental Center (Room 221C), 8350 Richmond Highway, Alexandria.
- ❖ Wednesday, Jan. 23, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at McLean District Governmental Center, 1437 Balls Hill Road, McLean.
- ❖ Thursday, Jan. 24, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Sully District Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd, Chantilly.

Hit and Run

FROM PAGE 3

everyone he met came so easy to him." According to a spokesperson at South Lakes, as of Monday, Jan. 7, funeral arrangements remained pending.

According to the police report: "The teen was attempting to cross South Lakes Drive towards Castle Rock Square when he was hit by a vehicle. He was pronounced dead at the scene. There is a crosswalk at the intersection and detectives are still conducting their investigation to determine if the teen was using the crosswalk." According to the report, the driver left the scene. "Detectives believe the involved vehicle was a sedan, but an exact model or color is unclear. The car would have heavy front-end damage."

Reston Police District stated that detectives from their Crash Reconstruction Unit are asking anyone with information about this incident to contact the Crash Reconstruction Unit witness phone line: 703-280-0543. Tips can also be submitted anonymously through Crime Solvers by visiting <http://www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org> or calling 1-866-411-TIPS (8477). They can also be sent in via text by texting "TIP187" plus the message to CRIMES (274637). Text STOP to 274637 to cancel or HELP to 274637 for help. Message and data rates may apply. Anonymous tipsters are eligible for cash rewards of \$100 to \$1000 if their information leads to an arrest.

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The Road Very Much Traveled



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Not that I haven't been down this road before, random though its occurrence may have been, but when schedules collide: 24-hour urine collection, pre-chemotherapy lab work, every-three-week infusion, quarterly CT scan and semi annual brain MRI; and of course the follow-up appointment with my oncologist a week or so later to finish the fortnight-long festivities.

The daze leading up to that final Friday are hardly the stuff with which dreams are made. More like nightmares, actually; certainly sleepless nights.

But as you regular readers know from previous columns, there's no real point fretting about it. I mean, what's done is done (what's scanned is scanned) and though I may not want the chips to fall, for the moment, they've already fallen.

Not to be fatalistic, but sometimes, as a cancer patient, ceding control to the realities (you'll note I didn't say "inevitable realities") is part of the process; "going with the flow," as my wife, Dina would say.

At this point, all I can do is wait and hope. I can't do one thing about any of it. I'll know soon enough and if the news is discouraging, I'll deal with it then. I see no advantage in being miserable a week earlier than necessary.

Still, all of these diagnostic demands occurring simultaneously is a bit much. Unfortunately, there's nothing to be done other than to grin (a wry smile, really) and bear it. The calendar/schedule with which my life has become all too familiar (I'm also not saying "consumed"), can hardly be adjusted simply because I don't feel like it.

My life is at stake here. I can't treat it like a household chore. It needs to be adhered to. Wanting circumstances to be different serves no purpose. Accepting reality and integrating the cancer-patient responsibilities into your routine seems a more reasonable course of action.

A few years into my cancer treatment, I remember meeting some of the staff at an off-site cancer-centric function. After exchanging pleasantries, one staff member commended me as being a "very compliant patient."

Not being completely sure what she meant, I asked her to clarify. She said I made all my appointments inferring that some cancer patients don't. Incredulous, I asked further. She sort of half-smickered and said I'd be surprised, which of course I was.

She offered no statistics or anything empirical, but from her reaction, it was not an unusual occurrence. I remember thinking, how do you not be compliant when doctors are working to save your life? Seemed counter intuitive, almost.

So yes, I've been compliant. Extremely so, I'm proud to say.

After my initial diagnosis, I felt I had been given an assignment, so to speak; to save (at least extend) my own life, and I was going to follow doctor's orders accordingly. And even though over the years, I've integrated many non-Western alternatives into my routine, so far as my primary care team (internal medicine doctor and oncologist) was concerned, I've supplemented rather than replaced.

All of which leads me to where I am today: waiting to hear from my oncologist about last week's scans, while swallowing 60-odd pills a day, drinking alkaline water, standing in front of an infrared bulb, and trying to detoxify whenever possible in the hope that together, conventional and non-conventional pursuits will make my immune system stronger and create an environment less hospitable to the growth and movement of the cancer cells that have already been triggered somehow.

The only persistent problem I have is compartmentalizing the presumptive fact that since I was given a "terminal" diagnosis in late February 2009, how is it that I just keep on keepin' on?

Life goes on, generally, I realize, but that's not what I was told would happen. After nearly 10 years, I suppose I'm just a little road weary.

Kenny Lourie is an Advertising Representative for The Potomac Almanac & The Connection Newspapers.

Education Issues Take Center Stage

Constituents tell lawmakers to increase teacher pay; pass ERA, \$15 minimum wage and more.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE CONNECTION

Teachers deserve a pay raise, and Virginia desperately needs to hire more school counselors. These were two of the most prevalent concerns voiced by constituents to members of the Fairfax County legislative delegation, the largest in the Virginia General Assembly.

During a marathon public hearing at the Fairfax County Government Center last weekend, lawmakers heard about everything from raising the minimum wage to reducing restrictions on solar power. But it was the coordinated push for education funding that remained a common theme, as one speaker after the next called on members of the House of Delegates and state Senate to invest an expected windfall of new revenue into the classroom.

“K-12 funding is again our top priority for this legislative session,” said Fairfax Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova, speaking at her last public hearing before stepping down at the end of 2019 from a position she’s held since 2009. “We have over 55,000 students receiving free-or reduced price lunch, over 36,000 students learning English as a second language and over 26,000 students receiving special education services. We need adequate funding to provide services for these higher need students.”

Gov. Ralph Northam has signaled that education funding will be one of his top priorities this year too, a move largely prompted by a \$300 million windfall of new revenue from the Trump tax cuts. Because changes at the federal level create new incentives for high-income earners to take a standard deduction rather than itemizing, that means more state tax filers will be taking a standard deduction rather than itemizing — creating a new pot of money for lawmakers to spend. At the top of the agenda is a 5 percent raise for Virginia teachers.

“Obviously the governor’s budget seeks to retain the best educator workforce,” said Melanie Meren, a candidate for the Hunter Mill District on the Fairfax County School Board. “And that means pay increases for teachers.”

AFTER THE PARKLAND shooting last year, Republican leaders in the House created a select committee on school safety to come up with recommendations to increase school safety. The group did not consider any new firearm restrictions, choosing instead to look at hardening school facilities and creating a new tip line allowing students to alert authorities about potential problems. One of the key recom-



Speaking at her last legislative public hearing as chairman of the Board of Supervisors, Sharon Bulova told lawmakers her top priority is funding for schools.



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/THE CONNECTION

SEIU512 President David Broder asked lawmakers to support raising the minimum wage to \$15 an hour and ensuring workers have access to paid family leave.

“The truth is that many working people across our community are struggling.”

— David Broder, president SEIU 512

mendations of the committee is reducing administrative duties of school counselors, freeing them up from duties like administering standardized tests. The committee did not recommend hiring any new school counselors though, even though Virginia falls far short of the recommended ratio of one counselor for every 250 students. That would cost about \$86 million, and Northam has a three-year plan to start moving toward that goal by spending \$36 million this year.

“Governor Northam recently said that our school counselors are the ears of the education system,” said Laura Jane Cohn, a candidate for the Springfield District of the Fairfax County School Board. “They are indeed the ears that hear about bullying and trouble at home.”

Specifics of one of the governor’s budget proposal that is troubling school officials here is to increase funding for a pool of money known as the “at-risk add-on,” a way to increase funding for school divisions with a high percentage of students who live in poverty. Although Fairfax County has 55,000 students who qualify for free or reduced price lunch, that’s only 29 percent of the student population — far below the statewide average of 41 percent. So the governor’s plan to add \$35 million to the at-risk add-on would not benefit Fairfax County.

“Because the at-risk add-on is based on division-wide percentages of poverty rather than our actual numbers of eligible students, Fairfax is disadvantaged by its overall size,” said School Board Chairwoman Karen Corbett Sanders.

HELPING LOW-WAGE workers was an-

other theme to emerge from the five-hour hearing. Several speakers from the Service Employees International Union 512 spoke about raising the minimum wage to \$15 an hour, ensuring workers have access to paid family leave and removing what they see as unnecessary restrictions on workers who want to unionize. They also spoke in favor of making the Earned Income Tax fully refundable. Virginia is one of the few states that does not make its earned income tax credit refundable, which harms families earning less than \$50,000 a year.

“The truth is that many working people across our community are struggling,” said David Broder, president of SEIU512. “The fastest growing jobs are often low-wage and lack basic benefits such as health care, paid leave and retirement plans.”

Carpenter Jose Frias appeared before lawmakers to urge them to take action against wage theft. Virginia is one of the few states that does not allow workers who are victims of wage theft to receive lawyers fees, which harms low-wage workers who would otherwise have no way to pay for a lawyer. Maryland allows for triple damages, and D.C. allows quadruple damages plus legal fees. But in Virginia, people who have not received all the money coming to them have a hard time finding a lawyer willing to work for free.

“Pass laws that give us the right to private cause of action,” said Frias. “We need these tools to defend our jobs and provide for our families.”

SEVERAL SPEAKERS urged lawmakers to scale back recently passed restrictions on homeowners who rent out their

houses short term through services like Airbnb.

Other speakers called for instituting universal background checks for people who purchase weapons at gun shows.

A handful of people arrived at the government center to ask lawmakers to “close the puppy mill loophole,” a legislative effort to create new restrictions on businesses that sell animals.

One speaker urged lawmakers to reject efforts to fork over up to \$1.1 billion worth of incentives to Amazon.

“This deal was conducted without any public input, and so this deal has no mandate,” said Helen Li, a Fairfax County resident who is part of a group known as For Us Not Amazon. “Please fight for a fair process instead of rubber-stamping a secret business deal that was made without Virginia residents in mind.”

Lawmakers also heard from several speakers on both sides of the Equal Rights Amendment. After Illinois became the 37th state to pass the ERA last year, advocates for and against started targeting Virginia as the potential 38th state — the magic number needed to put the ERA over the top and add it to the Constitution.

Arthur Purves of the Fairfax County Taxpayers Alliance raised concerns that the ERA might “make men’s and women’s bathrooms unconstitutional.” Many more speakers, though, said it was long past time for Virginia to join the other states that have approved the amendment.

“We have a historic opportunity this year to ratify the ERA and get it passed and include women in the Constitution of the United States as equal,” said Shyamali Hauth, a veteran who is active in Democratic politics. “I ask you to do the right thing and ensure equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex — those are the exact words of the Equal Rights Amendment.”